

# **The ABCs of Working with Parents**

- A – Accept parents as they are.**
- B – Believe that parents are sincerely concerned about all aspects of their children's growth and development.**
- C – Compliment parents on their children's attitudes, behavior and performance.**
- D – Discuss topics that interest parents.**
- E – Encourage parents to become involved in their children's education.**
- F – Familiarize yourself with each family's situation.**
- G – Give parents opportunities to ask questions and express their opinions.**
- H – Help parents develop confidence in their abilities. Parents have much to offer the school program.**
- I – Invite parents to participate in all school activities.**
- J – Judge not.**
- K – Know the community resources available to parents.**
- L – Listen to what parents are saying.**
- M – Make every effort to involve all parents. Telephone calls and home visits are helpful.**
- N – Never say it can't be done.**
- O – Offer opportunities for parents to develop a better understanding of the school program.**
- P – Plan appropriate activities for parent volunteers.**
- Q – Question open-endedly to stimulate more discussion, rather than using only closed-ended questions.**
- R – Recognize that each parent is unique.**
- S – Show that you are genuinely interested in parents.**
- T – Thank parents for attending meetings or serving as volunteers.**
- U – Understand that parents have a right to their feelings.**
- V – Vary your approaches to parent involvement.**
- W – Work together with parents for-the success of every student.**
- X – X-ray and improve your parent-involvement program regularly - You must help parents feel comfortable and needed.**
- Z – Zeal or your part is essential to a successful parent involvement program.**

Source: *The Update*, the newsletter of the Georgia Association of Education